

200180039

Description

Instrument panel for a motor vehicle

## **FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

5 The invention relates to an instrument panel for a motor vehicle having at least one electronic component which is arranged on a carrier, and/or one plug part, having electrical leads which are conductively connected to the electronic component and/or to the plug part.

10 Such instrument panels are frequently used in the region of a dashboard in contemporary motor vehicles and are known from practice. The electronic components are embodied, for example, as a speedometer, revolution counter or control device and are  
15 plugged onto the plug parts which are attached to the carrier or directly attached to the carrier. Leads which lead away from the dashboard can also be plugged onto the plug parts. As a rule, a plurality of leads are premounted in a cable harness and connected individually to contacts of the electronic components or of the  
20 plug parts. The cable harness is then attached to the carrier. The electrical leads which are laid in the cable harness are individually electrically insulated.

A disadvantage with the known instrument panel is that the  
25 mounting of the leads is very complex and cannot be automated.

## **A SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The invention is based on the problem of embodying an instrument panel of the type specified at the beginning in such a way that it can be mounted as easily and cost-effectively as  
30 possible.

This problem is solved according to the invention in that the carrier has protruding contact pins which are connected to the electronic component and/or to the plug part, and in that the  
35 electrical leads are attached to the contact pins.

By virtue of this configuration, the electrical leads can be individually attached to the contact pins in a mechanically

reliable way and can be stretched, for example, to a main plug part of the instrument panel according to the invention. The arrangement of a plurality of leads in a cable harness is not necessary thanks to the invention. Because the pins are easily accessible and can be fixed in position with a high degree of precision, the mounting of the leads can also be automated. The instrument panel according to the invention can therefore be mounted in a particularly cost-effective way.

10 According to one advantageous development of the invention, the contact pins are capable of supporting large tensile forces from the leads if they are arranged transversely with respect to the longitudinal extent of the leads.

15 The ends of the electrical leads could be, for example, screwed or clamped to the contact pins. However, according to one advantageous development of the invention, the attachment of the leads to the contact pins has reliable electrical contact and a high degree of mechanical stability if a connection of the ends of the electrical leads to the contact pins is embodied in a materially joined way. Welding or soldering, for example, is suitable as the materially joined connection.

25 The points at which mechanical loads on the leads are supplied to the contact pins can, according to another advantageous development of the invention, be easily spatially separated from the points at which electrical contact is made if the ends of the electrical leads are wound around the contact pins. A further advantage of this refinement is that the leads can be connected to the contact pins in a particularly fast and cost-effective way, in particular using automated means.

35 According to another advantageous development of the invention, electrical connections arranged between plug parts and electronic components are embodied in a particularly structurally simple way if the electrical leads are stretched between two contact pins.

According to another advantageous development of the invention, the mounting of the contact pins is particularly easy if they are pressed into the carrier.

5 As in the known instrument panel, the electrical leads could be individually electrically insulated. According to another advantageous development of the invention, the electrical insulation of the leads is particularly cost-effective if the electrical leads are insulated by plastic foam which is arranged  
10 on the carrier, and are secured in a position in which they are spatially separated from one another. As a result, it is possible to dispense with the arrangement of insulating layers on each individual lead. Plastic foam is usually necessary in any case to shape the dashboard on which the instrument panel is located.

15 The instrument panel according to the invention is particularly compact if a plurality of electrical leads are arranged in a common plane.

20 According to another advantageous development of the invention, the mounting of the contact pins is particularly cost-effective if the contact pins and the plug part and/or the electronic component are embodied as a premountable physical unit. This enables a separate operation for mounting the contact pins on  
25 the carrier to be avoided.

According to another advantageous development of the invention, the electrical leads can easily be laid around places with differing heights on the carrier or laid over these places if  
30 guide elements for the electrical leads are arranged on the carrier. The electrical leads can be diverted at these guide elements.

A

35 The invention permits numerous embodiments. In order to clarify its basic principle further, a plurality of said embodiments are illustrated in the drawing and will be described below. In the drawing:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig. 1 shows a sectional view through a region of a dashboard with an instrument panel according to the invention,

Fig. 2 shows a sectional view through a further embodiment of the instrument panel according to the invention,

Fig. 3 shows a plan view of a further embodiment of the instrument panel,

Fig. 4 shows a sectional view through the instrument panel from figure 3 along the line IV-IV.

*INIT*

Figure 1 shows a sectional view through a dashboard 1 for a motor vehicle with an instrument panel 2. The instrument panel 2 has a carrier 3 which is fabricated from electrically non-conductive plastic. Two electronic components 4 which are embodied as measuring units are arranged on the carrier 3. The electronic components 4 which are embodied as measuring units may be, for example, a revolution counter and a speedometer. The electronic components 4 have a terminal 5 and are connected to a contact pin 6 which penetrates the carrier 3. The contact pin 6 is pressed, for example, into the carrier 3. An electrical lead 7 is attached to the contact pin 6 on the side of the carrier 3 which faces away from the electronic components 4. The end of the electrical lead 7 is wound around the contact pin 6 here and/or welded or soldered to it. The electrical lead 7 is laid to a terminal (not illustrated) of the instrument panel 2. In order to simplify the drawing, only a single contact pin 6 with a single electrical lead 7 is illustrated. Of course, all the connections which are provided for making electrical contact with the electronic component 4 may each have an illustrated contact pin 6. Furthermore, figure 1 shows that a plastic foam 8 is applied on the side of the carrier 3 which has the electronic components 4. The line 7 is insulated on the side facing away from the electronic components 4 of the carrier 3.

Figure 2 shows an instrument panel 9 with a carrier 10 before electronic components 11 which are embodied as measuring

units are mounted. A plug part 12 with a contact pin 13 is attached to the carrier 10. The plug part 12 is used to connect to a correspondingly configured plug part 14 of the electronic components 11. One end of an electrical lead 15 is wound around the contact pin 13. The electrical lead 15 is arranged on the side of the carrier 10 facing the electronic components 11 and is laid, for example stretched, along a plurality of guide elements 16. In the region of the electrical lead 15, the carrier 10 has a layer of plastic foam 17. This plastic foam 17 insulates the electrical lead 15. For this reason, a plurality of electrical leads 15 to be laid do not require separate insulation.

Figure 3 shows a region of an instrument panel 18 in a plan view in which two plug parts 20 and an electronic component 21 which is embodied as a vehicle electrical system controller are attached to a carrier 19. It goes without saying that the electronic component 21 can have further contact (not illustrated). The plug parts 20 and the electronic component 21 each have contact pins 22, 23 to which electrical leads 24 are attached. Furthermore, guide elements 25 for guiding the electrical leads 24 are arranged on the carrier 19. Figure 4 shows, in a sectional view along the line IV-IV through the instrument panel 18 from figure 3, that the electrical leads 24 are arranged in one plane.